AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph number **[0081]** with the following rewritten paragraph. Insertions are shown as underlined, and deletions are shown as ~~striken through~~.

[0081] In one embodiment of the present invention an apparatus for treating cardiovascular disease in a medical patient is provided. The apparatus includes a sensor, an implantable housing, at least one implantable lead, a signal processor, and a signaling device. In one embodiment, the apparatus is a physiologically optimized dosimeter (POD™), such as the ~~HeartPOD®~~ HEARTPOD™ device developed by the Applicant. Cardiovascular disease, as used herein, shall be given its ordinary meaning, and shall also include high blood pressure, diabetes, coronary artery disease, valvular heart disease, congenital heart disease, arrthymia, cardiomyopathy, and CHF.

[0235] Referring now to **FIG. 26A**, in one embodiment, the same sensor and lead 318 can be used either as part of a Stand-Alone system (such as a heart monitoring system, pressure monitoring and feedback system, ~~HeartPOD~~ HEARTPOD™, POD, or apparatus for treating congestive heart failure, as described above) or as part of a combination system that includes a CRM or automated therapy system. This flexibility allows for the implantation of a Stand-Alone sensor that can be "upgraded" to include pacing and/or defibrillation therapy if the need arises without having to implant an additional lead. The combination system also allows the communication coil 302 of the apparatus for treating congestive heart failure (such as that described above with reference to FIG. 4) to be removed and replaced with a CRM 306. Furthermore, in one embodiment, the sensor electronics (which in one embodiment are located in a distal sensor package implanted within the patient's heart, as schematically illustrated in **FIG. 26B**) include the pace/sense circuitry that allows it to be used as a smart "digital" electrode in conjunction with a CRM device, as described below, to provide a digital pacemaker.